

THE VANDERBILT DIVORCE

An Example of Most Pernicious Character Imaginable.

THEY DIVORCED THEMSELVES.

The Unusual Proceedings of An Out of Court Divorce Readily Ratified Owing to the Influence of a Multi Millionaire. The World's Criticism.

The method by which the Vanderbilt divorce was arranged is a scandal to our jurisprudence. Worse than that, it is an influence for the degradation of public morals and the breaking down of the popular sense of right and wrong.

Practically Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt divorced themselves. There was no hearing before a court. The parties did not appear before the tribunal. There was no public proof of infidelity on either side to serve as a punishment to the guilty party or as a deterrent influence in the case of others. The whole matter was arranged by deceiver. The only function of the court was to give legal effect to the terms of the bargain.

Is it, then, the privilege of the rich to annul their marriages at pleasure by mutual agreement? The law, rigidly enforced against all ordinary citizens, proscribes that collusion between husband and wife shall be an effectual and peremptory bar to divorce. Yet this rich man and woman have sent their lawyers into court with a collusive agreement already made; the court has suppressed the evidence agreed to be presented by sending the case to a referee instead of hearing it in open session; the referee has made a report in accordance with the terms of the deceiver; the court has affirmed it, ordering the papers sealed so that there may be no scandal—which means simply that the guilty party shall be spared all social shame and inconvenience—and the terms of the collusive agreement have been embodied in a decree which authorizes one party to marry again at pleasure and imposes upon the other a prohibition of marriage which is as ineffectual as a bull against a comet.

In saying this we do not mean to reflect upon Justice Barrett. He is a judge whose eminent learning and conspicuous service are properly appreciated by the community. But in this matter he is the instrument of a vicious system which prevails, we believe, only in New York and which certainly does not obtain in most of the other states.

Unless we accept the unclean doctrine of free love, marriage and divorce are not in any sense private matters. The family relation lies at the very foundation of society. Divorce equally with marriage is a matter of public concern and should be decreed only after a public hearing and public proof of statutory cause.

A case of this kind sets an example of the most pernicious character imaginable. It means to the community that there is one law for the rich and another for the rest of us. It means that if you have money enough your marriage vows may count for nothing. It means that your misconduct will be carefully guarded against exposure by all the authority of the courts possess. It means that while collusive divorce proceedings are peremptorily thrown out of court in the case of ordinary persons a multimillionaire and his wife may arrange such a proceeding in full assurance that it will be ratified by the courts and that all the scandalous details will be securely hidden beneath the sacred seal of the tribunal.—New York World.

A ROYAL DORCAS ANNOYED.

The Princess of Wales Overwhelmed by Indigent Centenarians.

A kindly act of charity privately performed by the Princess of Wales without a thought of advertisement is now causing her much inconvenience. Some weeks ago the attention of the princess was drawn to the sadly destitute condition of a Mrs. Thomas, a centenarian living at Barryport, and the ancient dame was made happy by a handsome donation. This came to the knowledge of the local reporters, who naturally heaped royal benevolence. The result is that the princess is simply overwhelmed with applications for assistance on behalf of aged men and women and to judge from her correspondence there must be thousands of centenarians in this happy country.

Public notice has been given that the princess can give no more, but the stream of letters continues to flow to Marlborough House and Sandringham, and Miss Knollys, the chief private secretary, has been driven to devise a lithographed form of regretful refusal. Many of the applications are undoubtedly genuine. One from Llanelli, Wales, for instance, is accompanied by documentary evidence that Mrs. Elizabeth Morris attained her one hundred and fourth birthday on last Tuesday, but there are a good many undeniable attempts to swindle the royal Dorcas.—London Letter.

Mustaches Prohibited.

This is the rule at the well known banking house of Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand. None of the bank clerks wears mustaches, and it has long been considered a point of business etiquette that all the gentlemen employed at the bank should wear frock coats during business hours. A clerkship at Messrs. Coutts is considered one of the prizes in the banking profession. Some of the men are university graduates, many have been educated at one of the great public schools, while several have been

called to the English bar. Some years ago an attempt was made to have the unwritten law regarding mustaches rescinded, but it was found that a greater number preferred the old custom to remain in force than were in favor of its abolition.

This curious custom is also said to prevail in some of the large tea-houses in the city, while it is well known that some Church of England bishops prefer the curates under their charge to be clean shaven. A lady who tried about three years ago to enforce a shaved face on the groom in her employment, and dismissed him at once because he refused compliance with her order, found that the law gave her no such power and was mulcted in £5 for wrongful dismissal and the costs of the action by the judge of the Bedford county court.—London Standard.

An After Election Correspondence.

"The shortest correspondence on record," said Congressman Covert of New York yesterday, "passed between Amos Cummings and me a few months ago. Shortly after the November election, when Amos was defeated for congress, he was appointed subway commissioner of New York at a salary of \$5,000 a year. When I heard of it, I sent Amos this letter:

"Dear Amos— Then I drew a picture of a human hand and wrote in red letters across the palm the word 'Shake!' 'Yours, Covert.'"

"Two days later I received a reply.

"Dear Jim— Underneath was a human hand stretched in the opposite direction from that drawn in my letter and bearing on the palm the word 'Thanks.' In the corner of the page was an excellent delineation of a champagne glass half filled with wine, and under it the words 'With pleasure. Yours, Amos.'"

"But I always believed that Amos' reply was not genuine. You ask me why? Because I never saw him with a half filled glass. It was either brimming over or empty."—Washington Times.

Lent.

Strange to tell, the familiar term of Lent has nothing in its origin significant of fasting. It is derived from the Saxon term—lengthen, tide or spring—the time when each successive day steals a few minutes from its night. In English literature we have repeated allusions to Jack o' Lent, a sort of puppet, generally personated as a lean and ragged scarecrow, which boys jeered and threw stones at, much as the Guy Fawkes of later days was treated.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Eczema Isn't A Nice Disease.

It is painful, irritating, disgusting—offensive alike to the sufferer and his friends. The little watery, blistering eruptions itch and tingle. Scratching doesn't help. You may scratch to the bone and only make it worse, but it can be cured by using

Dr. J. C. Gammon's Eczema Cure

Eczema shows itself in other ways, but when little blisters, or scaly, watery patches appear, this ointment should be used at once. It cures quickly and permanently. It cures other skin diseases, too—tetter, ring worm, itch, salt rheum, dandruff, pimples, blotches and scald head. Numerous cases of itching piles, which are caused by an inflammation of the mucous lining of the rectum, have been permanently cured by this potent and soothing emollient.

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"Warner's Safe Cure I want, in the interest of humanity, to commend."

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